Chief Ministers' meeting on linking of rivers

89. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has called a meeting of Chief Ministers of States to discuss the linking of rivers of the country;

(b) if so, whether there is unanimity of views on this subject; and

(c) if not, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Task Force on Inter-Linking of Rivers under Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha has been constituted on 13.12.2002. One of the terms of reference of the Task Force is to devise suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States.

Tribunal on sharing of Krishna water

90. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted a petition seeking constitution of a Tribunal to regulate sharing of the Krishna water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The State of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a complaint under Section 3 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 to the Central Government on January 20, 2003 stating that water disputes with regard to use, distribution and control of the waters of the Inter-State river Krishna have arisen between the riparian States of

Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. As per the complaint, the interest of the State of Andhra Pradesh and its inhabitants have been and/or are likely to be, prejudicially affected by various acts of commission and omission of the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka such as unauthorised construction of the Almatti Dam, wrongful utilisation of waters of Tungabhadra river and from the Tungabhadra dam and violations of the award in the Bheema sub-basin. In the complaint, the State of Andhra Pradesh requested to constitute a water disputes tribunal under Section 4(1) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 for adjudication and decision of the dispute emerging from the letter of complaint.

(c) As per Section 3 of the ISRWD Act, 1956 the Central Government is required to form an opinion that water dispute cannot be settled by negotiations, and thereafter within a period not exceeding one year from the date of receipt of request, is required to constitute a water dispute tribunal for adjudication of the water dispute.

New irrigation projects for Himachal Pradesh

91. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new irrigation project for Himachal Pradesh has been formulated by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds sanctioned for the same;

(c) by when these projects are likely to be started; and

(d) if reply to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) A new medium irrigation project, namely, "Balh Valley (Left Bank) medium irrigation project" for Himachal Pradesh was conditionally accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources in its 75th meeting held on 18.12.2000. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 41.64 crore to provide ultimate irrigation